

## Living Table United Church of Christ

March 7, 2021 • Third Sunday in Lent

### **Gathering Song**

“Open My Eyes”

1. Open my eyes, God, help me to see your face, Open my eyes, God, help me to see.
2. Open my ears, God, help me to hear your voice, Open my ears, God, help me to hear.
3. You dwell among us, here in our midst, O God. Help us to know you, Emmanuel.
4. Open my heart, God, help me to love like you. Open my heart, God, help me to love.
5. Open my eyes, God, help me to see your face, Open my eyes, God, help me to see.

### **Gathering Words**

One: When we open our eyes, we see your glory, O God.

**All: Sun, moon, and stars proclaim your magnificence.**

One: When we open our ears, we hear your word, O God.

**All: The voice of creation reaches the ends of the earth.**

One: When we open our hearts, we receive your truth, O God.

**All: You fill us with joy and light forever.**

One: When we open ourselves, we praise your holy name.

**All: Praise God's holy name.**

### **Gathering Prayer**

**God, we come to you this day with so many things laying claim to our lives, our hearts, and our spirits. Open our ears and our hearts to receive your words of healing love. As we worship, enable us to be faithful followers of your holy ways. Amen.**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **Acknowledging Our Need for God**

One: God of life, we confess the ways we turn away from the fullness of life that you offer.

[silence]

One: God of love, we confess the hatred and fear we hold in our hearts.

[silence]

One: God of compassion, we confess our ambivalence and apathy.

[silence]

One: God of justice, we confess that our lives are linked to, benefit from, and reliant on oppressive systems.

[silence]

One: God of peace, we confess the violent movements of our hearts, the violent realities of our world.

[silence]

One: Holy God, we confess our sins to you.

[silence]

*Refrain:* But if we are the body, Why aren't our arms reaching?  
Why aren't our hands healing? Why aren't our words teaching?  
And if we are the body, Why aren't our feet going?  
Why is our love not showing them there is a way? There is a way.

*Silent Prayer*

***Assurance of Pardon***

based on Joel 2:13

One: Let us turn our hearts toward the One who created us...

**All: For God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.**

One: Let us turn toward God in confidence.

**All: We trust God's forgiveness; through the Love embodied in Jesus, we are forgiven and loved, always. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace***

***Song of Centering***

"If I Have Been the Source of Pain"

1. If I have been the source of pain, O God; if to the weak I have refused my strength;  
if, in rebellion, I have strayed away; forgive me, God.

2. If I have spoken words of cruelty; if I have left some suffering unrelieved;  
condemn not my insensitivity; forgive me, God.

3. If I've insisted on a peaceful life, far from the struggles that the gospel brings,  
when you prefer to guide me to the strife, forgive me, God.

***Children's Message***

***Thoughts of the People***

Aldous Huxley

Chronic remorse, as all the moralists are agreed, is a most undesirable sentiment. If you have behaved badly, repent, make what amends you can and address yourself to the task of behaving better next time. On no account brood over your wrongdoing. Rolling in the muck is not the best way of getting clean.

***Sacred Reading***

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### ***Message***

Repentance Begins  
Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe

### ***Song of Reflection***

“Out of the Depths”

1. Out of the depths, O God, we call to you  
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.  
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.  
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.
2. Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.  
Breaking the silences, the searing truth we seek.  
Safe among friends, our grief and rage we share.  
Here in this community, hold us in your care.
3. God of the loving heart, we praise your name.  
Dance through our lives and loves; anoint with Spirit flame.  
Your light illumines each familiar face.  
Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

### ***Prayers of the People***

#### ***Pastoral Prayer***

#### ***Prayer of Jesus***

Loving God, in whom is heaven, may your name be honored everywhere. May your kingdom come. May the desire of your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us. Give us the bread we need for each day. Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others. Keep us from all anxiety and fear. For you reign in the power that comes from love, which is

your glory forever and ever. Amen.

### *Offering*

### *Offertory*

### *Presentation of Gifts*

"Good Soil"

God, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

God, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. God, let my heart, God, let my heart,

God, let my heart be good soil.

### *Prayer of Dedication*

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

One: May the God of forgiveness be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the One who calls us 'Beloved.'**

One: Beloved of God, give thanks and praise to the One who loves you forever.

**All: We sing our hymns of joy to the One who leads us into Love.**

One: Hearts full of joy are lifted to you, (...) who forever sing of your goodness and love:

### *Song of Praise*

"Sanctus (Psallite Mass)"

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

### *We Remember*

One: In those ancient days, Jesus could have remained by your side.

**All: Yet, Jesus came to us.**

One: In those ancient days, Jesus could have feasted on your glory.

**All: Yet, Jesus came to eat and drink with sinners.**

One: In those ancient days, Jesus could have remained safe and whole.

**All: Yet, Jesus died broken on a sin-stained cross to show us a better way.**

One: As we journey to Jerusalem examining our sins, facing our temptations, naming our doubts, exploring the limits of our faith,

**All: Be with us and offer us opportunities to serve, as we remember the life, the death, the resurrection of the One we follow.**

One: Now we remember the last meal Jesus shared with his friends.

**All: We remember a table, an upper room, and betrayal.**

One: Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and offered it to those remaining with him.

**All: We remember Jesus' words: Take, and eat. This is my body broken for you.**

One: When they had all eaten, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and held it out to them.

**All: We remember Jesus' words: Take, and drink. This is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for forgiveness. Do this in remembrance of me.**

One: Let us pray:

**All:** On this day, and in this place, God of Mystery, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, the bread we break, and the cup we share. Freed by the goodness of your love, may we proclaim liberty to those held captive. Filled with the Bread of Life, may we feed those who hunger. Thirst quenched by the Cup of Grace, may we reach out to those who stumble through the deserted places. Travel with us through the wilderness of the world; enable us to gather our siblings in your love, your hope, your joy, and journey together into your Love. Amen.

### *Sharing the Elements*

#### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Thank you, merciful God,  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,  
for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice  
you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day,  
and life that never ends. Amen.

#### *Communion Song*

1. It all comes down to this  
What you require of me  
Love my neighbor as myself  
And You above all things

*Refrain:* Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly  
With You, God  
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly  
With You, God

2. It all comes down to this  
To be Your hands and feet  
Good news to all the world  
The truth will set us free

#### *Refrain*

*Bridge:* It's beauty for ashes  
It's mourning to dancing  
It's closer and closer

“Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly”

The glory of heaven (Repeat)

3. And years from now we'll see  
The fruit our hands have sown  
Faith just like a seed  
The only way it grows

*Refrain*

### ***Words of Sending***

One: God speaks, and sends us into the world.

**All: We will go to proclaim God's grace and glory.**

One: Jesus speaks, and lives are changed.

**All: We will go to set free the oppressed, to magnify those voices seldom heard.**

One: The Spirit speaks, and the world is turned inside out.

**All: We will become the foolish ones, the ones seeking to empower those who are often overlooked or unseen.**

### ***Song of Sending***

“Ev'ry Time I Hear the Spirit”

*Refrain:* Every time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.

*Refrain*

2. The Jordan river's chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.  
There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back.

*Refrain*

3. Oh, I have sorrow, I have woe, and I have heartaches here below.  
But while God leads me, I'll not fear because I know that God is near.

*Refrain*

### ***Benediction***

### **Contact Us**

**Congregational Care:** Andrea Tharaldson, **Finance:** Sandy Saline, **Faith Formation:** Jill Zats, **Property:** Beth Cherne, **Personnel:** Phyllis Owen, **Justice:** Dorothy Eide, **PCRC:** Lauren Siegel, **Every Meal:** Sharon Siegel

**Ministry Staff:** Rev. Rachael Keefe (rachael@livingtable.org), Kevin Werner Hohlstein (Minister of Music, kevin@livingtable.org). **Office:** Sybylla Yeoman Hendrix (Office Administrator, office@livingtable.org). **Table Talk:** Two e-mails every week. Sign up at livingtable.org.